



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

**Heinz EICHER**

Application No. 10/812,068

**Confirmation No. 1312**

Filed: March 30, 2004

For: DEVICE FOR LETTING OFF  
RESIDUAL STEAM AND  
WATER FROM THE HEATING  
UNIT OF A HOT BEVERAGE  
MACHINE

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: Reginald ALEXANDER

Atty. Docket No. 31496-201080

Customer No.

**26694**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

***Mail Stop: Fee***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

10/27/2006 MAHME1 00000057 220261 10012060  
01 FC:1806 100.00 DA

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

In order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A that were cited in a Search Report issued by the European Patent Office in connection with a counterpart European Application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed (CA), as well as the references cited therein. Please note that each of the foreign references (BA-BC) cited in the attached PTO/SB/08A is in the English language and, therefore, no further translation or statement of relevance is required. Furthermore, Reference AA (U.S. Patent No. 5,302,407) is the U.S. equivalent of German Patent document DE 4208854A, cited in the European Search Report. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these documents and make them of record.

As all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and all official guide lines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is therefore respectfully

requested that the Examiner consider the documents and make them of record.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

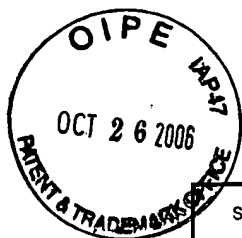
It is believed that a fee of \$180.00 is due for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any additional fee is required, please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/26/06



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PTO/SB/08A/B (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/812,068-Conf. #1312
				Filing Date	March 30, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Heinz Eicher
				Art Unit	1761
				Examiner Name	R. Alexander
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	31496-201080

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA*	US-5,302,407-A	04-12-1994	Vetterli et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA		GB-2367550-A	10-10-2002	Smith		
	BB		GB-944653-A	12-18-1963	Ernest et al.		
	BC		EP-0853909-A	07-22-1998	Bravilor		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. \* CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an asterisk (\*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	European Patent Office Search Report, December 4, 2003, for European Counterpart Application EP 03024729	

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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